

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAZATL 00305 292020Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02
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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1277
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0305

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, CARR, SNAR, PINT, CGEN
SUBJ: W/W RIOT AND FIRE IN CULIACAN STATE PENITENTIARY

EMBASSY PASS PRESS ATTACHE

1. ON JUNE 28 CONSUL PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO CULIACAN UPON LEARNING THAT THERE HAD BEEN RIOTING AND FIRE IN STATE PENITENTIARY PREVIOUS DAY. ACCORDING TO SEVEN AMERICANS INCARCERATED THERE TROUBLE AMONG RIVAL FACTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN FESTERING FOR SEVERAL DAYS SUDDENLY ERUPTED INTO FULL SCALE RIOT. AMERICANS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FORCES WHO HURLED MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, CLIMAXED BY OVERTURNING TWO 55 GALLON DRUMS OF FUEL OIL WHICH IMMEDIATELY TURNED ENTIRE CELL BLOCK INTO BLAZING INFERNO. PRISONERS SAID AT THIS JUNCTURE GUARDS FLED SCENE LEAVING AMERICANS LOCKED IN CELLS WITH WOODEN PARTITIONS SUPERIMPOSED OVER BARS. SOME MANAGED ESCAPE THROUGH FAULTY WINDOW INSTALLATIONS WHICH EXITED IN CORRIDOR AND OTHERS WERE RESCUED BY MEXICAN INMATES WHO PICK-AXED THEIR WAY THROUGH CONCRETE WALLS. AMERICAN PRISONERS SAID THAT GUARDS IN WATCH TOWER FIRED TWICE AT RESCUERS.

2. PRISONERS REQUESTED CONSUL MATTHEWS DISCUSS WITH
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DIRECTOR POSSIBILITY OF ALL AMERICANS REMAINING PERMANENTLY TOGETHER IN TEMPORARY QUARTERS TO WHICH THEY WERE ASSIGNED SINCE FIRE TO AVOID CONTACT WITH PERPETRATORS OF CRIME. DIRECTOR SYMPATHETIC AND PROMISED CONSUL HE WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE COMPLY WITH REQUEST. HE COMMENTED THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS SORRY THEY SUFFERED LOSS OF ALL POSSESSIONS AND NOW HAD ONLY

CLOTHING ON BACK.

3. CONSUL ON SCENE ORGANIZED CULIACAN CONTACTS AND OBTAINED DONATIONS OF EMERGENCY BEDDING, HYGIENE ARTICLES AND CLOTHING WITH PROMISE MORE FORTHCOMING. AT PRISONERS REQUEST, CONSUL NOTIFIED THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE WELL AND REQUESTED EMERGENCY FUNDS.

4. ARMY AND JUDICIAL POLICE WHO WERE CALLED TO QUELL RIOT STILL AT PRISON. RUMORS RIFE THAT DIRECTOR MAY HAVE TO GO AS EIGHT MEXICANS PERISHED AND MANY OTHERS INJURED.

5. CONSUL WILL MONITOR READJUSTED PRISON CONDITIONS CLOSELY TO DETERMINE IF AMERICANS' SECURITY THREATENED AND WILL UPDATE ACCORDINGLY.

6. NAME OF PRISONERS ARE:

JOSEPH B. ALEXANDER

MICHAEL F. BASTA

BRUCE BELL, AKA ANDREW T. QUAILL

HANS BURNWALL, AKA ROBERT REYNOLDS

CHARLES COLSON

VICTOR GARZA GALLARDO

VICTOR SHANK, AKA VICTOR SHARP

MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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